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Attorney Docket : 31530-171041

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

April 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: PCT DO/EO/US

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the claims attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3-9 of the above-identified Application as follows:

3. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that the size of a twofold cube is provided, with a width and height of edge dimension L and a length of edge dimension 2L, provision being made to rotate the molded block through 90° and/or 180° about its horizontal longitudinal axis during laying, with a constant block height.
4. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that a one-piece


supplementary block (37) is provided with dimensions of four cubes (fourfold cube) lying beside one other, the rotation of which takes place only about a vertical axis of rotation (27).

5. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that the radius of curvature of the rounded portions running toward the side edge is designed as a curve with, in plan view or side view, a radius of curvature which decreases constantly toward the corner regions (clothoid).
6. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that the face of the molded block is designed to form a clothoid toward a side edge over approx. 1/4 to 1/6 of the cube length L, the clothoidal curvature being variable with a radius of curvature tapering toward the corner region.
7. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one side edge between two side faces or between side faces and upper/lower face is designed to be sharp-edged or irregularly broken or rounded.
8. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that the cube-shaped basic block and/or the double-square block and/or the fourfold square block has/have clothoidal rounded portions on at least two opposing or on three side faces, said rounded portions being arranged in the clockwise direction or running in opposite direction or opposed in the plan view of the molded block.
9. (Amended) Molded block according to claim 1, characterized in that a small block with a reduced side edge and/or a wedge-shaped supplementary block are provided.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate multiple claim dependency. Claims 3-9 have been replaced as shown in the Marked-Up Version Showing Changes made which is attached. The Examiner's attention is directed to the IPER, of which the applicant wishes to make of use. The amendments herein are to the claims in the IPER. Examination on the merits of the Application is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the size of a twofold cube is provided, with a width and height of edge dimension L and a length of edge dimension 2L, provision being made to rotate the molded block through 90° and/or 180° about its horizontal longitudinal axis during laying, with a constant block height.
4. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a one-piece supplementary block (37) is provided with dimensions of four cubes (fourfold cube) lying beside one other, the rotation of which takes place only about a vertical axis of rotation (27).
5. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the radius of curvature of the rounded portions running toward the side edge is designed as a curve with, in plan view or side view, a radius of curvature which decreases constantly toward the corner regions (clothoid).
6. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the face of the molded block is designed to form a clothoid toward a side edge over approx. ¼ to 1/6 of the cube length L, the clothoidal curvature being variable with a radius of curvature tapering toward the corner region.
7. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in

that at least one side edge between two side faces or between side faces and upper/lower face is designed to be sharp-edged or irregularly broken or rounded.

8. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the cube-shaped basic block and/or the double-square block and/or the fourfold square block has/have clothoidal rounded portions on at least two opposing or on three side faces, said rounded portions being arranged in the clockwise direction or running in opposite direction or opposed in the plan view of the molded block.
9. (Amended) Molded block according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a small block with a reduced side edge and/or a wedge-shaped supplementary block are provided.